

St. James Parish



“Over the years, it has become clear that individual health is closely linked to community health—the health of the community and environment in which individuals live, work, and play. Likewise, community health is profoundly affected by the collective beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors of everyone who lives in the community”

Healthy People 2010

Parish Health Profiles 2005 — Your Parish at a Glance				
	St. James	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
ECONOMICS, 2000				
% All persons in poverty	20.7%	19.6%	12.4%	--
% Children under 18 in poverty	27.7%	26.6%	16.6%	--
% Unemployed 16 and over	10.2%	7.3%	5.8%	--
EDUCATION 2002-2003				
School Expenditure per Student	\$7,741	\$6,906	--	--
Student Attendance (average daily attendance as a % of the average number of students enrolled)	94.1%	93.5%	--	--
% High School Drop Outs (as a % of incoming 9th grade)	6.0%	7.0%	--	--
MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2002				
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	0.0	10.2	7.0	4.5
% Receiving prenatal care w ithin first 3 months	77.4%	83.8%	83.7%	90.0%
% Receiving adequate prenatal care (modified Kessner)	68.7%	78.9%	76.2%	--
% Low birth w eight	12.4%	10.5%	7.7%	5.0%
% Births to teens ages 15 - 19	15.5%	15.5%	10.6%	--
% Children fully immunized by 2 years old	--	69.8%	78.5%	90.0%
INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 2003 (new cases - rate per 100,000 population)				
Syphilis (primary and secondary)	--	4.1	2.5	0.2
Early Syphilis (primary, secondary and early latent)	0.0	8.6	5.4	--
Chlamydia	457.2	469.8	304.3	3.0
Gonorrhea	127.3	265.6	116.2	19.0
Tuberculosis	0.0	5.8	5.1	1.0
STATEWIDE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, 2002 (death rate per 100,000 population)				
Heart	253.6	248.4	241.7	166.0
Cancer	173.8	209.7	193.2	159.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	**	57.4	56.4	48.0
Accidents	**	46.7	37.0	17.5
Diabetes	**	39.5	25.4	45.0
Chronic Low er Respiratory	**	37.8	43.3	--
COMMUNITY SAFETY, 2003				
Validated cases of child abuse/neglect (rate per 1,000 population)	6.5	10.9	12.4	10.3
Deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes (rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled)	1.1	2.1	1.5	0.8
HEALTH BEHAVIORS, 2004				
	Region 3	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
% Current cigarette smokers (adults 18+)	27.8%	23.5%	21.0%	12.0%
% Obese - BMI>30 (adults 20+)	31.4%	27.0%	31.1%	15.0%
% Having a mammogram w ithin 2 years (women 40+)	75.7%	74.3%	74.6%	70.0%
% Having a pap smear w ithin 3 years (women 18+)	85.1%	85.2%	85.9%	90.0%
% Having a flu shot in past year (adults 65+)	73.9%	68.6%	67.9%	90.0%

Data Sources:

Economics: U.S. Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample Data, 2000

Education: Louisiana Department of Education District-reported data submitted to the Student Information System (SIS) end-of-year (EOY) report and Profile of Educational Personnel (PEP) System. Office of Management and Finance, Division of Planning, Analysis and Information Resources. District Composite Report 2003-2004.

Mothers and Children: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005

Infectious Diseases: DHH/OPH, Sexually Transmitted Disease Program. 2004 and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Trends in Reportable Sexually Transmitted Disease in the United State, 2003". NA= Rate not available, # of cases is less than 5

Leading Causes of Death: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005 (**Rates for counts less than 20 are unreliable and are not reported)

Community Safety: Child Abuse--Louisiana Department of Social Services, Office of Community Services, prepared by Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana and Motor Vehicle Deaths--EMS/Injury Research & Prevention Program

Healthy Behaviors: DHH/OPH, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

History^{1, 2}

St. James was one of the original 19 parishes, and was created on March 31, 1807, by an act of the Orleans Territory Legislature. The original seat of government was the community of St. James, on the west bank of the Mississippi River. In 1869 it was moved up to the east bank, near the convent of the Sacred Heart. The site, now called Convent, is the present parish seat. St. James Parish, whose lands consist of rich soil, wooded lowlands, and marshes, can point with pride to continued development of its variety of natural resources and farm acreage.



The mighty river that divides it is instrumental in the rapid growth of industry.

Visit St. James Historical Society Museum, a small turn-of-the-century pharmacy in Lutchet where tourist information, antiques and pictures from the past are available. On the grounds you will find an old Post Office, locomotive, train station, 800-year-old sinker cypress log, Blacksmith Shop, and more. Lost somewhere in the beautiful and glorious history of St. James Parish is when, where and why a bayou called Bayou des Acadiens became Blind River. Oak Alley Plantation, the South's most beautiful setting, begins with its spectacular trees, twenty-eight sheltering oaks over 250 years old. Lighting bonfires in St. James Parish on Christmas Eve has been a tradition since the 1880s. The annual Festivals of the Bonfires is the second weekend in December.

Parish Seat³ Convent

Major Cities (population over 5,000)

N/A

Parish Population⁴

2000.....	21,216
2003 (estimate)	21,118
2000 Population by Race	
White.....	50.0%
African-American	49.4%
Some other race.....	0.6%
Hispanic of Latino (of any race)	0.6%
2000 Population by Age	
Under 5 years	7.0%
5-14	16.8%
15-17	5.7%
18-19	3.5%
20-24	6.3%
25-64	49.6%
65 & over	11.1%

Geography and Statistics⁵

Average elevation	20ft.
Land area in square miles	246
Water area in square miles	11.7

Climate

Average temperatures	
Annual	69°
January	57°
July	82°
Annual average rainfall	60.8 inches

Labor Force (2001)⁶

St. James Parish	
Civilian.....	9,053
Employed	8,022
Unemployed.....	1,031
Unemployment.....	11.4%
Louisiana	
Civilian.....	2,055,000
Employed	1,956,500
Unemployed.....	98,500
Unemployment Rate	4.8%

Colleges/Universities (within one hour commute)

- Delgado Community College
- Dillard University
- Louisiana State University Medical Center
- Loyola University
- New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
- Notre Dame Seminary School of Theology
- Our Lady of Holy Cross College
- Southern University and A&M College of New Orleans
- Tulane University
- University of New Orleans
- Xavier University
- Louisiana State University and A&M College Baton Rouge
- Southern University and A&M College, Baton Rouge

1. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002
2. Louisiana Office of Culture Recreation and Tourism, 1998. keywords: regional information, <http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism/>
3. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002
4. U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3) <http://www.census.gov>
5. U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts <http://www.census.gov>
6. Louisiana Department of Labor, Civilian Labor Force Summary http://www.ldol.state.la.us/forms/lmi/CLF_Parishes_2000-Present.xls